I. Gilded Age: two “worlds”

1. Workers

1. Work Conditions

a. industrialization

b. urbanization

c. immigration

d. expansion

e. national markets

f. wage dependent labor

i.long hours, 12-16 hour days, six days a week

ii. below subsistence wages

iii. unhealthful and dangerous

iv. child labor

v. abusive

2. social conditions

i. extensive poverty and disease

ii. squalid urban slums

iii. prostitution, drugs, and crime

B. “Robber Barons”: immense fortunes

1. Rockefeller: oil
   1. violence
   2. kickbacks
   3. monopoly
   4. bribery
2. Carnegie: steel
   1. violence
   2. monopoly
   3. bribery
   4. The Gospel of Wealth
3. Morgan: railroads
   1. fraud
   2. monopoly
   3. bribery

d. wealthfare

1. Gould

5. Vanderbilt: shipping and railroads

1. Conspicuous consumption
   1. Palace-like homes: “Millionaires Row”

2. Resorts: homes and hotels like castles

3. Yachts

4. Clothes, decor, exotic dinners

5. Ocean liner vacations!

C. Culture

1. Acres of Diamonds

2. Horatio Alger, Jr. “rags to riches”

II. Social theory in America

A. Social Darwinism

1. Remember Edmund Spencer

2. William Graham Sumner

3. Combination of ideas

a. Evolution

b. Free Market

c. Biological determinism

d. eugenics

4. Thesis: Society is progressing through competition between individuals, groups, and countries.

5. Evolution

a. humans struggle for existence, like animals

b. each individual, each group and each country are engaged in

a struggle for survival

c. in human society the struggle is competition

d. “survival of the fittest”

e. struggle through competition causes society to evolve

f. survival of the fittest guarantees progress

6. biological determinism: social construction of race

a. craniometry

b. humans classified according to common physical characteristics

c. characteristics are heritable, passed from one generation

to next

d. non-physical characteristics associate with same groups

e. superior and inferior group

7. free market

a. capitalism is best economic system

b. creates the conditions for competition

c. success and failure/strong and weak

i. rich are fittest

ii. poor are unfit for survival

d. government intervention

i. distorts the natural competitive environment of capitalism

ii. allows the weak to survive

ii. weakens the species

iii. undermines natural evolutionary process

8. Justifies

a. Guilded Age

b. slavery

c. colonialism

d. genocide

e. eugenics

B. Eugenics

1. Comes from Greek meaning “Good origin”
2. Def: Science of heredity and good breeding
3. Goal:
   1. breed “better” traits in

b. breed “bad” traits out

1. poor

ii. feeble minded

iii. inferior races (Southern Europeans, Asians, blacks)

1. Means
   1. Separation

i. institutionalization

ii. miscegenation laws

* 1. exclusion

i. Immigration Act of 1924

ii. Coolidge: Nordics deteriorate when mixed

iii. pick out feeble minded by sight, test them

c. forced sterilization

1. 1930 30 states

ii. 60,000 people

d. movies “The Black Stork”, county fairs, universities

e. Supreme Court Buck v Bell 1927

f. IQ test: scientific measure of intelligence

1. society progressing

ii. more and more intelligent

iii. operationalize “intelligence”

iv. determine: intellectually and morally inferior

v. eliminate “morons”

vi. locate others in role relative to intelligence

vii. Question: Indian comes to town sees a white man . . .

5. Support of eugenics in America

6. American eugenics and Hitler